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Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-07 AID-05 OMB-01 SY-05

SR-02 ORM-01 FDRE-00 /080 W
---------- 071882
O 101215Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 248
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SAIGON PIRORITY
USMISSION USUN NY PRIORITY
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 6106

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, CB
SUBJECT: APRIL 10, THE 100TH DAY OF THE OFFENSIVE

REF: PHNOM PENH 6090

1. SUMMARY. THE KC HAVE AN ESTIMATED 200 INFILTRATORS WITHIN 3-1/2 KM (81MM MORTAR RANGE) OF POCHENTONG AIRPORT. FANK GAVE MORE GROUND ON THE EAST BANK OF THE MEKONG ACROSS FROM PHNOM PENH AND TWO ISOLATED TERRITORIAL BATTALIONS RAN OR SWAM TO SAFETY. INCOMING FIRE AT THE RICE LOADING AREA CAUSED SUSPENSION OF THE DC-8 RICE AIRLIFT UNTIL WORKERS COULD BE PERSUADED TO RETURN TO THEIR JOBS IN THE EARLY AFTERNOON. THE KHMER AIR FORCE MAINTENANCE SECTION HAS IMPROVED ITS EFFICIENCY AND KAF FLEW 164 TACTICAL AIR SORTIES YESTERDAY INCLUDING 64 T-28 STRIKES. THE AIRPORT AND VICINITY TOOK AT LEAST SIXTEEN 105MM HOWITZER ROUNDS AND SIXTEEN ROCKETS WHICH KILLED THREE PEOPLE AND WOUNDED SEVEN. NINE ROCKETS HIT IN THE CAPITAL AND FOUR 75MM RECOILLESS
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RIFLE ROUNDS LANDED ON THE RIVER BANK NEAR THE FOREIGN

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MINISTRY. END SUMMARY.

2. THE KC ARE EXPLOITING LARGE GAP BETWEEN OPERATIONAL BOUNDARIES OF THE 28TH BRIGADE AND THE 45TH BRIGADE ELEMENTS JUST TO THE EAST. AN ESTIMATED 200 KC HAVE MOVED THROUGH THE GAP AND ARE ABOUT 3-1/2 KM NORTH OF POCHENTING AIRPORT. FROM THAT POSITION THE KC CAN MORTAR POCHENTONG AIRPORT. THEY HAVE NOT YET DONE SO. FURTHER EAST THE AIR FORCE REPORTS KILLING SEVERAL HUNDRED KC IN THE OPEN AT THE GAP THEY CREATED YESTERDAY (REFTEL).

3. NORTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH THE KC FIRED AN UNUSUALLY LARGE NUMBER OF ROUNDS, INCLUDING 105MM HOWITZER, INTO A POST NEAR BRIDGE 4 ON THE ROAD LEADING UP THE WEST BANK OF THE MEKONG AND FOLLOWED UP WITH A GROUND ATTACK LATER. THE ATTACK BY FIRE CAUSED 60 FANK CASUALTIES. ACROSS THE MEKONG FROM PHNOM PENH, THE KC EXPANDED THE STRETCH OF BANK THEY CONTROL. A POSITION HELD BY TWO ISOLATED UNDERSTRENGTH TERRITORIAL BATTALIONS
RAN OR, IN SOME CASES, SWAM FOR SAFETY OVERNIGHT. MOST BROUGHT THEIR INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS.

4. AN ALL DAY ATTACK AGAINST 2ND BRIGADE POSITIONS SOUTH OF THE CAPITAL ON THE WEST BANK OF THE BASSAC RIVER COST FANK 25 CASUALTIES.

5. INCOMING FIRE AT THE RICE AIRLIFT TRANSSHIPMENT AREA EARLY THIS MORNING KILLED THREE WORKERS AND INJURED SEVEN. WORKERS DISPERSED AND THE DC-8 RICE AIRLIFT WAS SUSPENDED UNTIL EARLY AFTERNOON. C-130'S CONTINUED TO FLY.

6. THE KHMER AIR FORCE FLEW 164 TACTICAL AIR SORTIES YESTERDAY. THE HIGH SORTIE RATE IS A TRIBUTE TO KAF MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL WHO HAVE BOOSTED MAINTENANCE EFFICIENCY. THE MAINTENANCE SECTION NOW WORKS AT NIGHT, WHICH IS A PERIOD OF LOW TO NON-EXISTENT ATTACKS BY FIRE. IN ADDITION, TIME-CONSUMING NORMAL MAINTENANCE AND FLYABLE DAMAGED AIRCRAFT HAVE BEEN CONFIDENTIAL

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TRANSFERRED TO BANGKOK. THE MAINTENANCE CREWS HAVE IMPROVED IN MORALE AND PRODUCTIVITY.

7. FANK REPORTS THAT SITEEN ROCKETS AND SIXTEEN 105MM HOWITZER ROUNDS HIT THE AIRPORT DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS TODAY. THIS FIGURE IS PROBABLY LOW. NINE ROCKETS EXPLODED IN PHNOM PENH AND FOUR 75MM RECOILLESS RIFLE ROUNDS LANDED ON THE WATERFRONT NEAR THE FOREIGN

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